


an absorbent mat removably disposed in a pugilist corner adjacent to a respective post so as to overlie a portion of the floor at the corner;

a seat for a pugilist placed on a central area of the mat so as to leave an apron area of the mat disposed outwardly of the central area for catching fluids from administering to the pugilist when seated on the seat, whereby the mat is secured in place against the floor by the weight of the pugilist on the seat.

Claim 15 (amended)



The method of claim 8 including step (h) wherein step (h) is essentially continuous and free of interruption for mopping excess fluids from the floor.

The claims as amended are presented as an appendix in marked up format for the convenience of the examiner.

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 9-10, 15 and 19-24 are rejected under 112/2 as indefinite. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 102 and/or 103 as obvious in view of a single reference, Oregon BWC. Further examination of the application, as amended, and reconsideration of the objections and rejections are respectfully requested. Any fees associated with this communication should be charged to deposit account 501285/ENG001/DNL.

Indefiniteness 112/2

The examiner rejected the use of the word 'trademark' in some of the claims. It is believed that this word is well defined under the law, e.g. 17 U.S.C. §1051 et seq. This term is regularly used in the claims of issued patents, more than 100 just in the past 4 years, e.g. 6,493,672, 6,493,630 and 6,481,132, to name a few examples.

Claim 15 has been amended, without changing the scope thereof either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, to make it more clear, and not to distinguish it over any prior art or to confer patentability. The amendment to claim 15 does not introduce any new matter. The claim clearly limits the subject matter of the claim from which it depends and is thus in a permissible form and not ambiguous.

It is thus believed that there is no ambiguity in any of the claims and that one skilled in the art can readily determine whether he will be infringing or not. It is respectfully requested that the 112/2 rejection should be withdrawn.

Prior art rejection - Oregon BWC

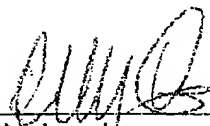
The office action cites Oregon BWC as inherently disclosing applicant's removable mat system in claim 1 since the entire boxing ring is disassemblable and not a permanent structure. Thus, the examiner asserts that it discloses a removable mat. However, the rejection overlooks the fact that applicant's boxing ring configuration of claim 1 includes the floor as a separate element that is part of the boxing ring distinct from the mat that is placed on top of the floor. Further, applicant has also amended claim 1 to clarify that the removable mat overlies only a portion of the floor. This amendment adds no new matter, e.g. it is clearly shown in the drawings. There is no possibility that the floor of Oregon BWC could possibly anticipate or render obvious the configuration structure of claim 1 since it is entirely devoid of any structure that teaches or suggests a removable mat that partially overlies the sub-floor.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no reference of record, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests applicant's invention. All objections and rejections have been overcome. Allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Claims as amended:

- [c1 amended] A boxing ring configuration useful for administering to pugilists between rounds essentially free of fluid deposition upon a floor of the boxing ring, comprising:
- a boxing ring having posts rising upwardly from the floor at corners thereof;
 - opposing corners designated as pugilist corners;
 - an absorbent mat removably disposed in a pugilist corner adjacent to a respective post so as to overlie a portion of the floor at the corner;
 - a seat for a pugilist placed on a central area of the mat so as to leave an apron area of the mat disposed outwardly of the central area for catching fluids from administering to the pugilist when seated on the seat, whereby the mat is secured in place against the floor by the weight of the pugilist on the seat.
- [c2] The boxing ring configuration of claim 1, further comprising a trademark displayed on an obverse side of the mat.
- [c3] The boxing ring of claim 2, wherein the trademark is displayed on the apron area.
- [c4] The boxing ring configuration of claim 2, further comprising a printable area on the mat for recording pugilist data.
- [c5] The boxing ring configuration of claim 1, further comprising:
- a cutout for the post formed in a corner of the mat; and
 - first and second edges of the mat extending from the cutout substantially at a right angle for alignment with respective edges of the floor.

- [c6] The boxing ring configuration of claim 5, further comprising an arcuate edge of the mat extending between ends of the first and second edges of the mat opposite the cutout.
- [c7] The boxing ring configuration of claim 1, wherein the mat comprises an upper absorbent layer and a lower absorbent layer on either side of an impervious layer.
- [c8] A method for conducting a contest between pugilists in a boxing ring comprising a floor, posts extending upwardly from the floor at corner areas thereof, and ropes strung from the posts adjacent to a perimeter of the floor, comprising the sequential steps of:
- (a) commencing a round of the contest between the pugilists in the boxing ring;
 - (b) terminating the round and commencing a rest period;
 - (c) placing a flat, absorbent mat in a rest corner assigned to a respective pugilist;
 - (d) placing a seat for the pugilist upon the mat so as to leave an apron area around at least one side of the seat;
 - (e) seating the pugilist on the seat;
 - (f) administering to the pugilist during the rest period and catching excess fluids on the mat, thereby inhibiting fluid accumulation on the floor;
 - (g) removing the seat and mat from the boxing ring in preparation for another round;
 - (h) optionally repeating steps (a) through (g) a plurality of times.
- [c9] The method of claim 8 wherein step (c) comprises displaying a trademark on an obverse side of the mat.

- [c10] The method of claim 9 wherein the trademark is disposed in the apron area.
- [c11] The method of claim 8 wherein the same mat is used in successive steps (c).
- [c12] The method of claim 8 wherein a new mat is used in successive steps (c).
- [c13] The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of recording contest data on the mat.
- [c14] The method of claim 13 wherein the contest data include a signature of the pugilist.
- [c15 amended] The method of claim 8 including step (h) wherein ~~the contest~~step (h) is essentially continuous and free of interruption for mopping excess fluids from the floor.
- [c16] The method of claim 8 wherein step (c) comprises:
positioning a cutout formed in a corner of the mat adjacent to a post;
and
aligning first and second edges extending from the cutout of the mat with respective edges of the floor.
- [c17] The method of claim 16 wherein the mat includes an arcuate edge extending between ends of the first and second edges of the mat opposite the cutout.
- [c18] The method of claim 16 wherein the mat comprises an upper absorbent layer and a lower absorbent layer on either side of an impervious layer.
- [c19] A lay-flat mat for use under the seat of a pugilist being administered to during a rest period between rounds of a boxing match, comprising:
an upper absorbent layer with an obverse surface;

a lower absorbent layer with a reverse surface;
an intermediate impervious layer;
a cutout at a corner for receiving a post at a corner of a boxing ring;
first and second edges at a right angle and extending away from the
cutout for alignment with respective edges of a floor of the boxing
ring;
a third edge opposite the cutout and extending from respective ends
of the first and second edges;
a central region of the obverse surface adjacent the cutout for
receiving a seat for the pugilist;
an apron area between the third edge and the central region; and
a trademark displayed on the obverse surface.

- [c20] The mat of claim 19 wherein the trademark is disposed in the apron area.
- [c21] The mat of claim 19, further comprising a printable area in the central
region for recording match data.
- [c22] The mat of claim 21, further comprising match data recorded in the
printable area.
- [c23] The mat of claim 22 wherein the data include a pugilist signature.
- [c24] The mat of claim 23 wherein the upper layer is stained with body fluid from the
pugilist.